

REMARKS

Formal replacement drawings, containing Figs. 1-6, are being prepared and will be submitted when received in proper condition from the patent artist and prior to the payment of the issue fee. The present drawings accurately represent the portions illustrated. Absence of the cylindrical body 56 of the receiver 5 was selected such that the diameter of the base 66 of the trunnion 6 could be seen in Fig. 3, comparing the base 66 outer diameter D to the space A between the ends of the u-shaped pin 54. The u-shaped pin 54 is not illustrated in Figure 5, but is illustrated in Figures 1 and 3. The holes 57, 58 for the pin 54 are illustrated in Fig. 4. A replacement set of drawings correct the arrow on the line for label 5 in the replacement sheets of drawings.

In all the claims "connection element" has been replaced by "connection device" since the connection device comprises a plurality of interacting elements.

In claim 1 "to be" has been introduced, as proposed by the examiner. In addition, "adapted to" has been introduced, to make clear that neither the first retainer nor the component is part of the connection device. Claim 1 has been amended to distinguish the first and second retainers in a consistent fashion.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the planiform or dish-shaped component is not a portion of the connection device. The first retainer is not a part of the connection device but does limit the claim by positively reciting a structural element necessary to define the structure of the connection device.

Now referring to the rejection commencing on the bottom of page 5 and continuing on page 6 of the Office Action, the connection device cannot be defined without reference to the component. Instead, an understanding of the connection between the connection device and the first retainer coupled to the component is necessary to understand the structure of the connection device, even though the first retainer is part of the component and not a claimed portion of the connection device. The anchorage device is an element of the claim, and the anchorage device includes limitations adapting it to couple with the first retainer. The first retainer is coupled to the component; therefore, the screw thread is adapted to couple the anchorage part with the first

retainer adjustably in at least a “z-translational direction” in relation to a surface of the component, when the anchorage part is coupled to the first retainer. Since the functional language is related to the screw thread of the anchorage part for coupling to the first retainer, it makes sense that the structural limitation should be related to a portion of the component to which it is attached, when attached. Thus, the claim is not indefinite.

While the Z direction is not physical, the component, the first retainer and the anchorage are physical objects defining structural limitations of claim 1.

In claim 7, the structure of the support flange of the receiver is “adapted to be retained by the retention plate.” Therefore, the retention plate and the second retainer mounted to the supporting structure are necessary to define the structure of the support flange. This further limits the connection device.

The Applicant has amended claim 1, overcoming the rejections for indefiniteness, correcting a clerical error; therefore, claims 2, 3 and 8-10 are not indefinite.

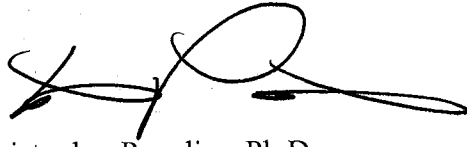
Now referring to page 7, the claims are amended overcoming the reasons for rejecting the claims for indefiniteness. Specifically, the locking device is fully supported within the original written description. Support is provided in paragraph [0002]-[0008] and paragraphs [0021]-[0023], for example. The locking device clamps the receiver 5 in the retainer 3 on the structure. The u-shaped securing clamp 54 secures the trunnion in position once the receiver is clamped to the retainer. Thus, a locking device is activated by the receiver and the trunnion and may be mechanical or hydraulic, as illustrated alternatively in Figures 2 and 5, for example.

Claim 10 has been amended to specify the second retainer as now recited in claim 1.

No new matter has been added by any of the amendments to the drawings, specification or claims. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments and allowance of the pending claims 1-3 and 7-10, which are now in condition for allowance.

Dated: January 5, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Paradies', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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